

**Amendments to the Claims:**

Please amend the claims as shown below. This Listing of Claims will replace prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims:**

1-19. (Canceled)

20. (Currently Amended) An automatic document feeder comprising:  
a document tray on which a plurality of documents can be placed;  
a separating section configured to separate the documents placed on the document tray one by one;  
a feeding section configured to feed the separated document to a document reading position;  
an input section for inputting information on material of the document;  
a sensor section provided between the separating section and the document reading position and configured to detect passage of a document separated by the separating section; and  
a separation control section for controlling timing of starting a separating operation of a next document in the separating section based on whether a leading edge of the next document is detected but a trailing edge of a preceding document is not detected from the sensor section, wherein the leading edge is detected, by a first sensor, before the leading edge reaches a roller and the trailing edge is detected, by an optical sensor, when the trailing edge passes through the roller by a second sensor, and wherein the separation control section controls the separating section so that the timing of starting a separating operation of a next document in a case where the information on the material of

the document inputted by the input section is predetermined information is later than the timing of starting a separating operation of a next document in a case where the information on the material of the document inputted by the input section is not the predetermined information.

21. (Previously Presented) The automatic document feeder according to Claim 20, wherein the input section inputs information on whether or not the document is a recording sheet had been recorded in color.

22. (Canceled)

23. (Canceled)

24. (Previously Presented) The automatic document feeder according to Claim 20, wherein the input section inputs information set by a console section of a connected imaging device or information set by a console section of the document feeder.

25. (Canceled)

26. (Currently Amended) An automatic document feeder connected to an imaging device comprising:

- a document tray on which a plurality of documents can be placed;
- a separating section configured to separate the documents placed on the document tray one by one;
- a feeding section configured to feed the separated document to a

document reading position;

a sensor section provided between the separating section and the document reading position and configured to detect passage of a document separated by the separating section;

a determining section determining whether the recording mode of the imaging device is a color recording mode or a monochrome recording mode; and

a separation control section for controlling timing of starting a separating operation of a next document in the separating section based on whether a leading edge of the next document is detected but a trailing edge of a preceding document is not detected from the sensor section, wherein the leading edge is detected, by a first sensor, before the leading edge reaches a roller and the trailing edge is detected, by a second sensor, when the trailing edge passes through the roller, and

wherein the separation control section controls the separating section so that the timing of starting a separating operation of a next document in a case where the recording mode of the imaging device is the color recording mode is later than the timing of starting a separating operation of a next document in a case where the recording mode of the imaging device is the monochrome recording mode.

27-33. (Canceled)

34. (Currently Amended) The automatic document feeder according to Claim 20, wherein the sensor section includes a~~the~~ first sensor and a~~the~~ second sensor ~~provided downstream of~~<sub>1</sub> the first sensor being a retractable flag and the second sensor being an optical sensor, and wherein the separation control

section controls the separating section to start a separating operation of a next document based on an output from the first sensor in a case where the information on the material of the document inputted by the input section is not the predetermined information, and controls the separating section to start a separating operation of a next document based on an output from the second sensor in a case where the information on the material of the document inputted by the input section is the predetermined information.

35. (Canceled)

36. (Currently Amended) The automatic document feeder according to Claim 26, wherein the sensor section includes athe first sensor and athe second sensor ~~provided downstream of~~, the first sensor being a retractable flag and the second sensor being an optical sensore, and wherein the separation control section controls the separating section to start a separating operation of a next document based on an output from the first sensor in a case where the information on the material of the document inputted by the input section is not the predetermined information, and controls the separating section to start a separating operation of a next document based on an output from the second sensor in a case where the information on the material of the document inputted by the input section is the predetermined information.

37. (Canceled)